**What is Racial Harmony in Singapore?**

The definition of racial harmony is people of many nationalities working, playing, and studying together in peace. Generally, it means that people treat other people of different races the same way that they would treat people of the same race as themselves. Let’s zoom in the context to Singapore, which has three major races, which are Chinese, Malay, and Indian. Why is this more important to Singapore than in any other nation in the world? Let’s look at two things; firstly, on why Singapore needs racial harmony that bad, and secondly, on the extent that Singapore has achieved this racial harmony.

Let’s look at the first one; on why Singapore needs this racial harmony. Singapore is a small island state surrounded by developing superpowers in the southeast region of Asia. These countries have a large, speedily-growing population, with a far superior army and lots of natural and non-natural resources. Compared to Singapore, it’s like an ant nest surrounded by two shiny black boots. Just being an ant nest, Singapore can unleash thousands of ants towards the black boots and therefore deter them from attacking us. However, what happens if the red ants get angry with the black ants, simply because they’re black? The resulting conflict would stop the ants from attacking the boots, and then the boots would have a splendid opportunity to crush them. In the same way, it is important for Singapore to embrace racial harmony to avoid conflicts and arguments; otherwise it will eventually collapse and destroy itself in the end like every other torn country.

In addition, in order for Singapore to prosper, it is needed to establish racial harmony. Why is this so? Singapore is a small nation, with relatively tiny land area and a low birth rate. If any conflicts broke out in Singapore, there would be hardly anything accomplished by any Singaporean except for mutually assured destruction. However, with unity of the separate races, comes the power to do great things which would never be accomplished by separate races in Singapore because of the lack of manpower and spirit. For with one Singapore, comes peace and prosperity for all.

Now for my second tier, on the extent that Singapore has achieved this racial harmony. Obviously, it’s a large extent. In the paragraph beforehand, it was shown that Singapore cannot achieve anything renowned without the support of every major race in Singapore. Singapore today is rated 1st in Newsweek’s Economic Dynamism category, putting it in front of powerful countries such as the United States of America and the United Kingdom. 4th in Education and 7th in Health is also no matter to be trifled with. How would Singapore achieve such the likes of this, without racial integration to an extremely high extent? Let’s take a closer look at the likes. In politics, MPs of the different regions are spread out racially. Even the president of Singapore is an Indian, regardless of the 74.1% Chinese population compared to the 9.2% Indian hold of the Singaporean population. For job applicants, they are as likely to get a job regardless of whether their skin is white, brown, or any other colour, and unlike other parts of the world where it actually counts. In HDB flats, your neighbour will most likely be of a different race than you are, yet there is lack of discrimination seen in so many other places, and in its absence warm hospitality. In local schools, your best friend could be of any race possible, and nobody would taunt you for doing so. In most holidays, there is equally divided attention to all three major races, except for race-specific holidays like Deepavali or Hari Raya Haji.

Therefore, Singapore needs racial harmony as much as it needs a strong defence, or a dynamic economy. Without racial harmony, Singapore would be a forgotten nation, probably destroyed long ago by some other country. With racial harmony, Singapore has progressed from a third-world nation to a full-fledged, prospering republic equal to many other countries in terms of economy, education, health, et cetera. With racial harmony, Singapore has become a world-class country.